

REMARKS

I. DRAWINGS

The drawings submitted on November 30, 2000 have been accepted by the Examiner.

II STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 remain in this application. Claims 26-29 have been allowed. Claims 1-25 are rejected.

III. DOUBLE PATENTING

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-25 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,647 B1. Applicants disagree with the rejection and believe that the pending claims are clearly patentably distinct.

However, to advance prosecution, a proper Terminal Disclaimer is timely filed concurrently herewith. The Terminal Disclaimer is sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejection, as noted in the Office Action at page 2, see 37 CFR 1.130(b). Therefore, Applicants believe that the double patenting issue has been fully addressed.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that Claims 26-29 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge that said claims are allowed.

V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

No extension fee is believed to be due. However, to the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in relation to this application to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: August 29, 2005


Kirk D. Wong
Reg. No. 43,284

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, California 95110-1089
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1202 ext. 214
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on August 29, 2005

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